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## OXFORD DEMOCRAT,

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### EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS.—One Dollar and Fifty cents in advance. Advertisements inserted on reasonable terms. The Proprietor not being accountable for any error beyond the amount charged for the advertisement. A reasonable deduction will be made for cash in advance, and no credit will be given for a longer period than three months.

Communications and Letters on business must be Post-Paid to insure attention.

Book and Job Printing

Executed with neatness and despatch.

## POETRY.

### THE PRESS.

BY JAMES HORTON.

The Press! what is the Press? I cried;  
When thus a wondrous voice replied—  
In me all human knowledge dwells;  
The oracle of oracles,  
Past, present, future, I reveal,  
Or in oblivious silence seal;  
What I preserve can perish never—  
What I forego is lost forever.

I speak all languages—by me  
The deaf may hear, the blind may see,  
The dumb converse, the dead of old  
Communion with the living hold.  
All lands are one beneath my rule,  
All nations learners in my school;  
Men of all ages everywhere,  
Become contemporaries there.

What is the Press? 'Tis what the tongue  
Was to the world when Time was young;  
When, by tradition, sire to son  
Conveyed what'er was known or done;  
But fact and fiction were mixed,  
That boundaries never could be fixed.

What is the Press? 'Tis that which taught  
By hieroglyphic forms of thought,  
Lore, from the vulgar proudly hid,  
Like treasures in a pyramid;  
Forknowledge then was mystery,  
A captive under lock and key.  
By Priests and Princes held in thrall,  
Of little use or none at all.  
Till the reborn Alphabet  
Free their own great deliverer set,  
At whose command, by simplest spells,  
They work their mental miracles.

What is the Press? 'Tis what the pen  
Was thence to centuries to men,  
When scribe leaves lead wings to words,  
Or, caged in books, they sang like birds,  
But slow the pen, and frail the page—  
To write twelve folios asked an age;  
And a put babe, in sport, might spoil  
The fruits of twenty authors' toil.

A power was wanting to insure  
Life to words worthy to endure,  
A power the race to multiply  
Of intellectual polyp:  
It came, all hardship to redress;  
And Truth and Virtue hailed the Press!

What am I, then? I am a power  
Years cannot waste, nor flames devour,  
Nor waters drown, nor tyrants bind;  
I am the mirror of man's mind,  
In whose serene, impassive face,  
What cannot die on earth you trace—  
Not phantom shapes that come and fly,  
But like the stars of the sky,  
In which the stars, by night and day,  
Seen or unseen, hold on their way.

Myself withdrawn from mortal sight,  
I am invisible as light—  
Light which, revealing all beside,  
Is itself within itself can hide.  
The things of darkness I make bare,  
And, nowhere seen, I'm everywhere,  
All that philosophy has sought,  
Science discovered, genius wrought;  
All that reflective memory stores,  
Or rich imagination pours;  
All that the wit of man conceives;  
All that he wishes, hopes, believes;  
All that he loves, or fears, or hates;  
All that to heaven and earth relates;  
These are the lessons that I teach,  
By speaking silence—silent speech.

Ah! who like me can bless or curse?  
What can be better, what be worse,  
Than language framed for Paradise,  
Or sold to infamy and vice?  
Blest be the man by whom I bless;  
Accursed he who wrongs the Press;  
The reprobate in prose or song,  
Who wields the power of right for wrong,  
Wrong, to outlast his laureled tomb,  
And haunt the earth till crack of doom!

## PERSEVERANCE;

OR PETER PUNCTUAL'S WAY TO COLLECT BILLS.

BY BENJ. SMITH,

Author of "The Original Jack Downing Letters."

Messrs. Editors:—The little story I am about to tell you, is none the worse for being true; and I trust none the less interesting. While many of your pleasant and graceful writers are amusing and instructing your readers by relating events that bear a resemblance to truth; allow me for once to hold your readers by the button hole, a few minutes, and see whether a salutary lesson, in a small way, may not as well be drawn from events that have occurred. The names I shall use are of course fictitious, but the circumstances actually occurred very much as I shall relate them, and the actors are respectable gentlemen now residing in the good city of Gotham.

Some few years ago, Peter Punctual, an honest and industrious young fellow from Yankee land—I say Yankee land, Messrs. Editors, but I freely confess that it is merely an inference of mine, drawn from the circumstances of the story itself, and if your readers, after perusing it, do not

come to the same conclusion, they may set him down as coming from any other land they please, but for myself, were I on a jury, and under oath, I would bring him in a Yankee. The same Peter Punctual, a few years ago, came into N. York and attempted to turn a penny and get an honest living by procuring subscribers to various magazines and periodicals, on his own hook. That is, he would receive a quantity of magazines from a distant publisher, at a discount, and get up a list of subscribers about the city, and serve them through the year at the regular subscription price, which would leave the amount of the said discount a clear profit in his pocket, or rather a compensation for his time and labor. There are many persons in the city who obtain a livelihood in the same way.

Peter's commissions being small, and his capital still smaller, he was obliged to transact his business with great care and circumspection, in order to make both ends meet. He adopted a rule therefore to make all of his subscribers pay their year's subscription in advance. Such things could be done in those days, when business was brisk, and people were strangers to 'hard times.' In canvassing for subscribers, one day, through the lower part of the city, and in the principal business streets, he observed a store which had the air of doing a heavy business, and read upon the sign over the door, "Solomon Sharp, Importer" of certain wares and merchandize. The field looked inviting, and in Peter went with his samples under his arm, and inquired for Mr. Sharp. The gentleman was pointed out to him by the clerks, and Peter stepped up and asked him if he would not like to subscribe for some magazines.

"What sort of ones have you got there?" said Mr. Sharp.

"Three or four different kinds," said Peter, laying the specimens on the desk before him—please to look at them and suit yourself."

Sharp tumbled them over and examined them one after another, and at last took up "Buckingham's New England Magazine," published at Boston.

"What are your terms for this?" said he, "I don't know but I would subscribe for this?"

"Five dollars a year in advance," said Peter, "to be delivered carefully every month at your store or house."

"But I never pay in advance for these things," said Sharp. "It is time enough to pay for a thing when you get it. I'll subscribe for it, if you have a mind to receive your pay at the end of the year, but not otherwise."

"That's against my rule, said Peter; 'I have all my subscribers pay in advance.'"

"Well, it's against my rule to pay for any thing before I get it," said Sharp; "so if you haven't a mind to take my subscription, to be paid at the end of the year, you won't get it at all. That's the long and short of the matter."

Peter paused a little and queried with himself as to what he had better do. The man was evidently doing a large business, and was undoubtedly rich—a wholesale dealer, and an importer—there could not possibly be any danger of losing the subscription in such a case; and would it not be better to break over his rule for once, than to lose so good a subscriber?

"Well, what say you?" said Sharp; "do as you like; but these are my only terms. I will not pay for a thing before I get it."

"On the whole," said Peter, "I have a good mind to break over my rule this time, for I don't like to lose a good subscriber when I can get one. I believe I'll put your name down sir.—Where will you have it left?"

"At my house," said Mr. Sharp, which was about a mile and a half from his store, away up town.

The business being thus concluded, Peter took up his magazines, bade Mr. Sharp good morning, and left the store. No further personal intercourse occurred between them during the year. But Peter, who was own carrier, as well as canvasser, regularly every month delivered the New England Magazine at Mr. Sharp's door.—And in a few days after the year expired, he made out his bill for five dollars, and called at Mr. Sharp's store for the money. He entered with as much confidence that he should receive the check at once, as he would have had in going with a check for the like sum into the Bank of the U. States, during that institution's palmiest days. He found Mr. Sharp at his desk, and presented him the bill. That gentleman took it up and looked at it, and then looked up at Peter.

"Oh! ah, good morning," said he, "you are the young man who called on this business nearly a year ago. Well, the year has come round, has it?"

"Yes, I believe it has," said Peter.

"Well, bills of this kind," said Mr. Sharp, "are paid at the house. We don't attend to them here; you just take it to the house, any time when you are passing, and it will be settled."

"Oh, very well, sir," said Peter, bowing, and left the store. "Doing too large a business at the store, I suppose," he continued, to himself, as he walked up the street, "to attend to little things of this kind. Don't like to be bothered with 'em,' probably."

But Peter thought that he might as well make a finish of the business, now that he was out; so he went directly to the house, and rang at the door. The servant girl soon made her appearance.

"Please to carry it back to Mrs. Sharp," said Peter, "and tell her Mr. Sharp desired me to bring the bill here, and said it would be paid at the house."

This message brought Mrs. Sharp herself to the door, to whom Peter raised his hat and bowed very politely.

"I haven't nothing at all to do with bills here at the house," said the lady, "they must be carried to the store—that's the place to attend to them."

"Well ma'm," said Peter, "I carried it to the store, and presented it to Mr. Sharp, and he told me to bring it to the house and you would pay it here; and that he couldn't attend to it at the store."

"But he couldn't mean that I should pay it," said Mrs. Sharp, "for he knows I have not the money."

"But he said so," said Peter.

"Well, then there must be some mistake about it," said the lady.

"I beg your pardon, ma'm," said Peter, "it's possible there may be, and he put the bill in his pocket, bowed and left the house."

"It is very queer," thought Peter to himself, as he walked away a little vexed. "I can't conceive how there could be any mistake about it, though it is possible there may be. There couldn't be any mistake on my part, for I'm sure I understood him. May be he thought she had the money at the house when she hadn't. I guess."

Consoling himself with these reflections, Peter Punctual thought he would let Mr. Sharp rest two or three days, and not show any anxiety by calling again in a hurry. He would not be so unwise as to offend a good subscriber, and run the hazard of losing him, by an appearance of too much haste in presenting his bills. Accordingly in about three days, he called again at Mr. Sharp's store, and asked him in a low voice, so that no one should overhear, if it was convenient for him to take that little bill for the magazine to day."

"But I told you," said Mr. Sharp, "to carry that bill to the house; I can't attend to it here."

"Yes sir, so I understood you," said Peter, "and I carried it to the house, and Mrs. Sharp said that she couldn't pay it there, for she had no money, and I must bring it to the store."

"Oh, strange," said Mr. Sharp; "well she didn't properly understand it then. But I am too much engaged to attend to you to-day; you call again, or call at the house sometime, when I am there."

Upon this, he turned to his desk and began to write with great earnestness, and Peter left the store. The affair began to grow a little vexatious and Peter felt a little nettled. Still, he supposed that people doing such very large business did find it difficult to attend to these little matters, and doubtless it would be set right when he called again.

After waiting patiently a couple of weeks, Peter called again at Mr. Sharp's store. When he entered the door, Mr. Sharp was looking at a newspaper; but on glancing at Peter, he instantly dropped the paper, and fell to writing at his desk with great rapidity. Peter waited respectfully a few minutes, unwilling to disturb the gentleman until he should appear to be a little more at leisure. But after waiting some time without seeing any prospect of Mr. Sharp's completing the very pressing business before him, he approached him with deference, and asked if it would be convenient to take that little bill for the magazine to day. Sharp turned and looked at Peter very sternly.

"I can't be bothered with these little things," said he, "when I am so much engaged. I am exceedingly busy to-day—a good many heavy orders waiting—you must call at the house, and hand the bill to me or my wife, which." And he turned to his desk, and continued to write, without saying any thing more.

Peter began to think he had got hold of a hard customer; but he had no idea of giving up the chase. He called at the house several times afterwards. Once he ventured to send the bill again by the girl to Mrs. Sharp, who returned for answer, that she had nothing to do with such bills; he must carry it to the store.

At last, after repeated calls, he found Mr. Sharp one day at home. He came to the door, and Peter presented the bill. Mr. Sharp expressed some surprise and regret that he had come away from the store and forgot to put any money in his pocket. Peter would have to call some other day. Accordingly, Peter Punctual retired, with a full determination to call some other day, and that not very distant; for it had now been several months that he had beaten back and forth like a shuttlecock between Mr. Sharp's store and Mr. Sharp's house, and he was getting to be rather tired of the game.

Having ascertained from the girl at what hour the family dined, he called the next day precisely at the dinner hour. He rang at the door, and when the girl opened it, Peter stepped into the hall.

"Is Mr. Sharp in?" said Peter.

"Yes sir," said the girl; "he's up stairs. I'll speak to him if you want to see him."

"Yes," said Peter, "and I'll take a seat in the parlor till he comes down."

As he said this, Peter walked into the parlor and seated himself upon an elegant sofa. The parlor was richly furnished with Brussels carpet, the best of mahogany furniture, a splendid piano, &c., &c., and in the back parlor, to which folding doors were open, every thing appeared with corresponding elegance. A table was there spread, upon which dinner seemed to be nearly ready. Presently the girl returned from the chamber, and informed Peter, that Mr. Sharp said it was just the dinner hour now, and he would have to call again."

"Please to go and tell Mr. Sharp," said Peter,

"that I must see him, and I'll wait till he comes down."

The girl carried the message, and Mr. Sharp soon made his appearance in the parlor. A frown passed over his brow as he looked at Peter; and saw him sitting so much at ease, and apparently so much at home, upon the sofa. Peter rose and asked him politely if it was convenient for him to take that little bill to-day."

"No," said Sharp; "it is not, and if it was I wouldn't take it at this hour. It's a very improper time to call upon such an errand just as one is going to sit down to dinner. You must call again; but don't come at dinner time; or you may drop into the store some time, and perhaps I may find time to attend to it there."

"Well now, Mr. Sharp," said Peter, with rather a determined look, "I can't stand this business any longer, that's a fact. I'm a poor man, and I suppose you are a rich one. I can't afford to lose five dollars, and I'm too poor to spend any more time in running after it and trying to collect it. I must eat, as well as other folks, and if you can't pay me the five dollars to-day, to help me pay my board at my regular boarding-house, I'll stay here and board it out at your table."

"You will, will you?" said Sharp, looking daggers, and stepping towards Peter. "If you give me a word of your impudence you may find it'll be a long time before you collect your bill."

"It has been a long time already," said Peter, "and I can't afford to wait any longer. My mind is made up;—if you don't pay now, I'm going to stay here and board it out."

Sharp colored, and looked at the door, and then at Peter.

"Come, come, young man," said he, advancing with rather a threatening attitude towards Peter, "the sooner you leave the house peaceably the better."

"Now, sir," said Peter, fixing his black eyes upon Sharp, with an intension that he could not but feel, "I am a small man, and you are considerable of a large one; but my mind is made up. I am not going to starve, when there is food enough that I have an honest claim to."

So saying, he took his seat again very deliberately upon the sofa. Sharp paused, he looked agitated and angry; and after waiting a minute, apparently undecided what to do, he left the parlor and went up stairs. In a few minutes, the servant rung for dinner. Mrs. Sharp came into the dining room and took her seat at the head of the table. Mr. Sharp followed, and seated himself opposite his lady; and between them, and on the right hand of Mrs. Sharp, sat another lady, probably some relative of the family. When they were well seated, and Mr. Sharp was beginning to carve, Peter walked out of the parlor, drew another chair up to the table, and seated himself very composedly opposite the last mentioned lady. Mr. Sharp colored a good deal, but kept on carving. Mrs. Sharp stared very wildly, first at Peter, and then at her husband.

"What in the world does this mean?" said she. "Mr. Sharp, I didn't know we were to have company to dinner."

"We are not," said the husband. "This young man has the impudence to take his seat at the table unasked; and says he is going to board out the amount of the bill."

"Well, really, this is a pretty piece of politeness," said Mrs. Sharp, looking very hard at Peter. "Madam," said Peter, "hunger will drive a man through a stone wall. I must have my board somewhere."

No reply was made to this, and the dinner went on without any further reference to Peter at present. Mr. Sharp helped his wife, and then the other lady, and then himself, and they all fell to eating. Peter looked around him for plate and knife and fork, but there were none on the table but what were in use. Peter however, was not to be baffled. He reached a plate of bread, and tipping the bread upon the table cloth, appropriated the plate for his own convenience.—He then took possession of the carving knife and fork, helping himself bountifully to meat and vegetables, and commenced eating his dinner with the greatest composure imaginable. These operations on the part of Peter had the effect to suspend all operations for the time on the part of the rest of the company. The ladies had laid down their knives and forks, and were staring at Peter in wild astonishment.

"For mercy's sake, Mr. Sharp," said the lady of the house, "can't we pick up money enough about the house to pay this man his five dollars, and send him off? I declare he is too provoking. I'll see what I can find."

With that she rose and left the room. Mr. Sharp presently followed her. They returned again in a moment, and Mr. Sharp laid a five-dollar bill before Peter, and told him he would thank him to leave the house. Peter examined the bill to see if it was a good one, and very quietly folded it and put it in his pocket. He then drew out a little pocket-inkstand and a piece of paper, laid it upon the table before him, wrote a receipt for the money, which he handed to Mr. Sharp, rose from the table, bowed to the company and retired, thinking as he left the house that he had full enough of the custom of Solomon Sharp, importer.

Peter Punctual still followed his vocation of circulating magazines. He had no intention of ever darkening the door of Solomon Sharp's store again, but somehow or other, two or three years after, as he was canvassing for subscribers in the lower part of the city, he happened to blunder into the same store accidentally, without noticing the name upon the door. Nor did he discover his mistake, until he had nearly crossed his store, and attracted the attention of Mr. Sharp himself, who was at his accustomed seat at the desk where Peter before had so often seen him. Peter thought, as he had fairly got into the store, he would not back out; so he stepped up to Mr. Sharp with-

out a look of recognition, and asked if he would not like to subscribe for some magazines. Mr. Sharp, who either did not recognize Peter, or chose not to appear to recognize him, took the magazines and looked at them, and found a couple he said he would like to take, and inquired the terms. They were each three dollars a year in advance.

"But I don't pay in advance for any thing," said Sharp. "If you have a mind to leave them at my house, to be paid for at the end of the year, you may put me down for these two."

"No," said Peter, "I don't wish to take any subscribers, but those who pay in advance."

Saying this, he took up his specimens, and was going out of the door, when Mr. Sharp called him back.

"Here, young man, you may leave these two at any rate," said he, "and here's your advance," handing him the six dollars.

"Where will you have them left?" said Peter. "At my house, up town," said Mr. Sharp, describing the street and number.

The business being completed, Peter retired, much astonished at his good luck. He again became a monthly visitor at Mr. Sharp's door, where he regularly delivered to the servant girl the two magazines. Two or three months after this, when he called one day, on his usual round, the girl told him Mr. Sharp wanted to see him, and desired he would call at the store. Peter felt not a little curious to know what Mr. Sharp might have to say to him; so in the course of the same day he called at Mr. Sharp's store.

"Good morning," said Mr. Sharp as Peter entered; "come take a chair and sit down here."

Peter, with a "good morning, sir," did as he was desired.

"Ain't you the young man," said Mr. Sharp with a comical kind of look; "who sat out to board out a subscription to the New England Magazine at my house two or three years ago?"

"Yes," said Peter, "I believe I'm the same person who once had the honor of taking board at your house."

"Well," said Mr. Sharp, "I want to give you a job."

"What is it?" said Peter.

"Here, I want you to collect these bills for me," said Mr. Sharp, taking a bundle from his desk, "for I'll be hanged if I can: I've tried till I'm tired."

Whereupon he opened the bundle and assorted out the bills, and made a schedule of them, amounting in the aggregate, to about a thousand dollars.

"There," said he, "I will give you upon that list ten per cent. commissions on all you collect; and on that list I'll give you twenty five per cent on all you collect. What say you will you undertake the job?"

"Well, I'll try," said Peter, "and see what I can do with them. How soon must I return them?"

"Take your own time for it," said Mr. Sharp; "I've seen enough of you to know pretty well what you are."

Peter accordingly took the bills and entered on his new task, following it up with diligence and perseverance. In a few weeks he called again at Mr. Sharp's store.

"Well, have you made out to collect anything on those bills yet?"

"Yes," said Peter.

"There were some of the ten per cent. list that I thought it possible you might collect," said Mr. Sharp. "How many have you collected?"

"All of them," said Peter.

"All of them!" said Sharp; "well, fact, that's much more than I expected. The twenty-five per cent list were all dead dogs, wasn't it? You got nothing on them, I suppose, did you?"

"Yes, I did," said Peter.

"Did you, though? How much?" said Sharp. "I got them all," said Peter.

"Oh, that's all a joke," said Sharp. "No, it isn't all a joke," said Peter. "I've collected every dollar of them, and here's the money," taking out his pocket book, and counting out the bills.

Mr. Sharp received the money with the most perfect astonishment. He had not expected that one half of the amount would ever be collected. He counted out the commissions on the ten per cent. list, and the commissions on the twenty five per cent. list, and handed the sum over to Peter. And he then counted out fifty dollars more, and asked Peter to accept that as a present, partly, said he, "because you have accomplished this task so far beyond my expectations, and partly because my acquaintance with you has taught me one of the best lessons of my life. It has taught me the value of perseverance and punctuality. I have reflected much upon it ever since you undertook to board out the bill for the magazine at my house."

"Why yes," said Peter, "I think perseverance and punctuality are great helps in the way of business."

"It every person in the community," said Mr. Sharp, "would make it a point to pay all of his bills promptly, the moment they become due, what a vast improvement it would make in the condition of society all round. 'Tis would put people in a condition, at all times, to be able to pay their bills promptly."

We might add, that Peter Punctual afterwards opened a store in the city, in a branch of business which brought Mr. Sharp to be a customer to him, and he has been one of his best customers ever since, paying all his bills promptly, and whenever Peter requires it paying even in advance.

"Tis one of God's blessings that we cannot foreknow the hour of our death; for a time fixed, even beyond the possibility of living, would trouble us more than Joth this uncertainty."



## Legislature of Maine.

### IN SENATE.

SATURDAY, Jan. 28.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

Mr. Smart moved some verbal amendments to the Bankrupt Resolves. Adopted.

Mr. Main laid on the table the petition of Samuel Weston and 120 others, praying that portions of Augusta, Hallowell, Litchfield, Readfield and Winthrop, be set off from said towns and incorporated into a new town by the name of Kennebec. Referred to Committee on Division of Towns.

### IN HOUSE.

SATURDAY, Jan. 28.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Mr. Mildram called up the bill to assess a State tax on the town of Auburn, and Monday next was assigned for its third reading.

Resolve in relation to the valuation of the towns of Minot and Auburn, was read once and Monday assigned.

Mr. Mildram from the Committee on State Valuation, reported a Resolve relative to the valuation of the town of Masardis, which was once read and Monday next assigned.

Bill for repeal of pedlar law came from the Senate recommitted, and the House concurred.

The order (passed by the House a few days since), relative to the Military Academy at West Point, came back from the Senate, amended in two particulars, and, as amended, indefinitely postponed.

The first amendment, which called for General Jackson's opinion in relation to the Hartford convention, &c., was adopted, without opposition.

The question was then on the second amendment directing the committee to inquire whether Mr. Botts, the "header" of Capt. Tyler, was a graduate of West Point, &c.

Mr. Little said that he had the honor of introducing the order to which another branch had affixed these extraordinary amendments. He introduced it in all seriousness, believing the information called for as essential to a proper understanding of the subject; and the House by adopting it, also so decided.

Mr. L., (after some further comments on the character of the amendments,) said he regarded the action of the Senate on this amendment, and the appearance, simultaneously, of an article in the "New York Union," a paper devoted to the interests of the administration as a most remarkable coincidence.

The article to which he had reference, was one attacking Mr. Botts and Mr. Benton, for their opposition to President Tyler. And when he learned that another branch of this Legislature, "without exception democratic," had voted a censure on Mr. Botts for the same offence, he could not but regard this unity of action as an indication of a coalition of the democracy of this State with the friends of the administration. Indeed, he considered it as almost proof positive of an alliance with Capt. Tyler; at any rate it was indicative of a political leaning in his favor.

Mr. Frye of Bethel observed that, as the gentleman had said that he was serious in offering the order, we were bound to believe him. But he supposed the Senate considered the order intended as a burlesque, and probably this amendment was adopted as a fair offset to the order itself.

Mr. Abbot said we were bound to believe the gentleman from Portland serious in offering the order, and we were equally bound to consider the Senate serious. He agreed with the gentleman in the opinion that the information called for in the order was desirable, and he was glad to be able to agree with him for once, as he usually found him wrong—wrong politically, and wrong in every thing else. But inasmuch as the Senate had regarded the order as an insult, the better way to get out of the difficulty was to adopt the amendment and indefinitely postpone the whole matter.

The Senate amendment was then concurred in—and the order indefinitely postponed in concurrence—yeas 66, nays 25.

Mr. Abbot called up the Resolves from the Senate in relation to the West Point Academy, and the question was on their passage to be engrossed.

Mr. Little called for the yeas and nays and they were ordered.

The Resolves then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, by yeas and nays as follows: yeas 65—nays 22.

### IN SENATE.

MONDAY, Jan. 30.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

Mr. Hunt from Com. on Parishes, reported that the petitioners for a Bartlett Cemetery Incorporation, have leave to bring in a Bill.

Report accepted and Bill read once, and on motion of Mr. Ingalls, laid on the table for the present.

A message was received from the Governor, accompanying certain Resolutions of the Assembly of Rhode Island in relation to the restitution of the fine imposed upon Gen. Jackson by Judge Hall. Also a communication from Dr. Camel relative to establishing a system of Marine Hospitals on the Mississippi, its tributaries and the great lakes, for the benefit of the Western Boatmen. Read and sent down.

Adjourned.

### IN HOUSE.

MONDAY, Jan. 30.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

The Bankrupt Resolves came back from the Senate, that body rejecting and concurring with the House, in the rejection of the Preamble, and further amending the resolves, so as to perfect their phrasology. The House concurred in the amendments, and the Resolves as amended then passed to be engrossed, yeas 75, nays 4.

Bill authorizing the assessment of a State tax in the town of Auburn, was read a third time.

Mr. Goff of Auburn, said he, for one, was not prepared to go for the bill now under consideration; and he would inquire whether its passage would be in accordance with former legislation, and whether it would be a legal assessment on

the town of Auburn? Assessors in towns, he believed, have not the power after neglecting to tax an individual this year, those of next year to impose on him a double tax, although it might have been just for him to have paid it this year.

He hoped gentlemen would not act hastily, but examine and see if it will be doing justice to the town of Auburn, inasmuch as its not being assessed last year was no fault of the town of Auburn but a neglect of the last Legislature, and he would like to hear from some gentleman of the Committee on what grounds they reported this bill.

Mr. Mildram of Wells, explained the object of the bill—maintained that the Legislature possessed the right to order an assessment upon a newly incorporated town, created by the division of another town, and referred to the acts dividing the town of Old Town and assessing a tax on the town of Orono, created therefrom, as a precedent.

He also insisted that the Legislature, independent of any precedent, possessed the right to equalize the valuation between two towns as was proposed to be done in this instance.

The bill then passed to be engrossed.

Mr. Hichburn of Prospect presented the petition of Miles Turner to be divorced from the bonds of matrimony, and the same was referred to a Joint Select Committee, consisting on the part of the House, of Messrs. Hichburn, Paine of Bangor, Bradbury of Kennebunkport, Chadwick of Portland and Abbot of Belfast.

Mr. Abbot called up the Bill "to promote agriculture and to diminish pauperism," and the same was read twice and to-morrow assigned.

Adjourned.

### IN HOUSE.

TUESDAY, Jan. 31.

Bill "to promote agriculture and prevent pauperism" came up on its passage to be engrossed. [The Bill exempts 50 acres of land from attachment, in the hands of the original purchaser, where its original cost did not exceed \$100, and where its present value, by reason of improvements &c., shall not exceed \$600.]

Mr. Otis of St. George moved the indefinite postponement of the Bill.

Mr. Morse of Bath advocated the motion. He observed that the Bill, as would be seen, exempted, in addition to what is by law now exempted from attachment, six hundred dollars worth of property—which will exceed the average amount of property of the citizens of this State. Mr. M. wanted to hear some reasons in favor of the Bill.

Mr. Little of Portland also advocated the motion and opposed the Bill. He remarked, that if every man in the State were to be allowed, exempt from attachment, 50 acres of land, then not an acre of land would be subject to the payment of debts, provided the land in the State should be equally divided; for if so divided, there would be but about enough to give every man the number of acres named in the Bill.

Mr. Thurston of Charleston, thought the bill possessed some merits, and he hoped the motion to indefinitely postpone, would be withdrawn, and the subject assigned for a future day, that those merits might be canvassed.

Mr. Severance of Augusta, remarked that this bill was an old acquaintance. It originated in the Legislature of 1839 not as the gentleman from Belfast had intimated, in a spirit of demagoguism, but from the embarrassments and necessity of the times. He (Mr. S.) voted for it in 1840. But the necessity which then existed for its enactment, had been done away with by the passage of the Bankrupt act, and he was now opposed to the passage of the bill.

Mr. Meader of Brunswick, moved to amend the bill, by inserting a proviso that no person taking the benefit of this act, should be entitled to the benefit of the provisions exempting certain property from attachment, contained in the Revised Statutes. Mr. M. supported his amendment, and remarked that the amount exempted by the bill exceeded the property now possessed by five eighths of our farmers.

Mr. Meader's amendment was then adopted, 69 to 30.

Mr. Lyman of Lubec, moved further to amend the bill by adding, "And any person who shall purchase or obtain in any way a legal title to any vessel, the tonnage of which shall not exceed fifty tons, and shall be employed in the fishing or coasting business in this State, shall hold and retain the same, exempt from attachment and execution, provided the owner shall cause to be painted, in large letters, on the stern of said vessel, the word 'EXEMPTION,' and cause the same to be recorded on the margin of the license or register of such vessel."

Mr. L. advocated the amendment, and insisted that as strong reasons existed why such vessels should be exempt, as that fifty acres of land should be exempted.

Mr. Spalding opposed the amendment, as tending to clog the bill.

Mr. Lyman replied.

My Haynes of Burnham, called for the yeas and nays on the passage of the bill, but they were not ordered.

Mr. Lyman's amendment was then adopted, 84 to 8.

The bill, as amended, was then indefinitely postponed—yeas 76, nays 16.

The House recessed and concurred with the Senate, in referring an order relative to the proceeds of the public lands, to the Judiciary Committee, instead of raising a select committee.

On motion of Mr. Prince of Buckfield—Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary take into consideration the necessity of all lawyers presenting their accounts of costs charged clients, under oath, to the County Commissioners for examination; and if found not to comport with the laws of the State to report the same to the Court next sitting, and that twenty-five per cent. of the amount collected be converted to the support of the paupers in the town where said costs may be collected.

### IN SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Mr. Ingalls called up the Hawker and Pedlar Law.

Mr. Bridgman's amendment, was amended by providing that the money to be paid for licences

shall be paid into the Treasury of the State.—The Bill was then laid on the table.

Mr. Brooks, from the Committee on so much of the Governor's Message as relates to changing the time of the meeting of the Legislature, reported that Legislation thereon was inexpedient.

Mr. Brooks then moved that the subject be recommitted with instructions to report a Resolve submitting the question of change to the people.

This motion was supported by Mr. B. in a few remarks.

A very animated discussion followed, in which Messrs. Strickland, Smart, Leavitt, Bridgman, Eastman, Ingalls, Merritt, Main, Hubbard and Stanley participated.

Mr. Strout called for the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question was then taken and the motion to recommit prevailed—yeas 18, nays 5.

### IN HOUSE.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Mr. Hart of Portland, offered an order, directing the Messenger of the House, to call on the President of the Senate, and request the delivery of the House's proportion of the report on the State Prison, printed for the use of the Legislature.

Mr. H. stated that they had been printed some three weeks since and none had been received in this House.

Mr. Little said the great trouble with the Senate was, that there were no whigs there. But he hoped the order would not pass. It was not courteous to put the Messenger of the House in communication with the President of the Senate; if any communication was to be opened, it would be more parliamentary, that it should be with the Honorable Speaker. The whole proceeding, however, was novel, and he hoped the order would not pass.

On motion of Mr. Mildram, the order was amended by inserting Messenger instead of President, and as amended passed.

Mr. Brown of Machias introduced an order directing the Committee on pay roll deduct one day's pay from each member who is not present at the return of the House each morning, unless absent on leave. Mr. B. stated that his object was to ensure the punctual attendance of the members, and, hoping the introduction of the order would accomplish the purpose, he moved it be laid on the table, which prevailed.

On motion of Mr. Elliot of Frankfort, Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary inquire into the expediency of so amending the Constitution, as to make Sheriffs elective by the people.

## OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, FEBRUARY 7, 1843.

### THE TREATY.

It is stated by certain papers that the Maine Commissioners gave their assent to the late Treaty before it was ratified. The Argus has a paragraph to that effect in a recent article in which it has attempted to prove that the Treaty is not a party question,—that it is wrong to heap odium on the President and Mr. Webster, when at the same time we justify Senators who voted for the "ratification of the Treaty; and the Commissioners of Maine, without whose consent *first had and obtained*, it could not have been made."

And again it says—"It is a very unworthy artifice to attempt to condemn the negotiators of the Treaty and at the same time to justify the Commissioners that gave the assent of the State and the Senators who [not that] voted for its ratification."

And yet again it says—"D. Webster has political aims enough to answer for, and it is not wise to condemn him for acts which have been justified by more than two thirds of the Senate and by a large majority of the Democratic Senators, and to which the State of Maine, through her Commissioners, chosen without reference to party, has given her assent."

Let the reader note the assertions here made. It is stated that the consent of the Commissioners of Maine was "first had and obtained," before the Senate voted for the ratification of the Treaty. It is again asserted that it is wrong to cast odium upon the negotiators of the Treaty, when at the same time we "justify the Commissioners who gave the assent of the State."

And again it is asserted, "the State of Maine, through her Commissioners, chosen without reference to party, has given her assent."

This language conveys the idea that the assent of our Commissioners was *had prior* to the ratification of the Treaty by the Senate. Now if any one will take the trouble to read the following paragraph contained in the last communication of our Commissioners to the Secretary of State, they will find that this is a mistake.

"That it is a mistake, or an intention to deceive those who oppose the Treaty, any man of ordinary sagacity can easily discern. The paragraph to which we allude is the following:—

"The commissioners of Massachusetts have already given their assent, on behalf of that Commonwealth. Thus situated, the commissioners of Maine, invoking the spirit of attachment and patriotic devotion of their State to the Union, and being willing to yield to the deliberate convictions of her sister States as to the path of duty, and to interpose no obstacles to an adjustment which the general judgment of the nation shall pronounce as honorable and expedient, even if that judgment shall lead to a surrender of a portion of the birthright of the people of their State, and prized by them because it is their birthright, have determined to overcome their objections to the proposal, so far as to say, that if, upon mature consideration, the Senate of the United States shall advise and consent to the ratification of a treaty, corresponding in its terms with your proposal, and with the conditions in our memorandum accompanying this note, and identified by our signatures, they, by virtue of the power vested in them by the resolves of the Legislature of Maine, give the assent of that State to such conventional line with the terms, conditions, and equivalents, herein mentioned."

They here say "that if" upon mature deliberation the Senate of the U. S. shall advise and consent to the ratification of the Treaty they will give the assent of Maine, &c. This "if" implied contingency, doubt, and hesitancy. What is the contingency on which the Commissioners predicate their assent? What is it that must be done before their assent can be given? No man can say that at the time this communication was sent to the Secretary of State the Commissioners

had assented to the treaty. It would be torturing the language out of its ordinary meaning, and show either deception or knavery, to say so. What is this contingency then, contemplated by the word "if"? Why it is plain to be seen that the Commissioners would not give the assent of this State until it had first been sent to the Senate and there received the sanction of that body.

The contingency spoken of, and required, in order to secure the assent of Maine, was the sanction and approval of the Senate. Therefore, when the Senate had ratified that Treaty the Commissioners gave their assent, but not before. But they did not give their assent then, because they considered the Treaty just and equitable towards this State, as may be seen by the following paragraph from the last correspondence:—

"Considering, then, this proposition as involving the surrender of more territory than the avowed objects of England require, as removing our land-marks from the well-known and well defined boundary of the treaty of 1783, the crest of the highlands, besides insisting upon the line of the arbitrator in its full extent, we feel bound to say, after the most careful and anxious consideration, that we cannot bring our minds to the conviction that the proposal is such as Maine had a right to expect."

We are obliged to admit that when the Senate ratified the Treaty our Commissioners gave their assent to it. But we are certain from their last communication, in which they gave their conditional assent, that they supposed the Senate would not ratify it. The attempt to make it appear that the assent of the Commissioners was "first had and obtained" before the ratification of the Senate, is shown to be groundless and absurd.

We believe the Senate done injustice to our State when they ratified the Treaty. We believe that the bargain was a bad one for us. We believe, also, that it was made under unfavorable auspices. But we know at the same time that we are a party very much interested, and that we are not so much disposed to look at the question as a whole, or as it concerns all the points at issue, as we should have been placed in the situation of the Senate. We do not therefore judge of this matter as we might under other circumstances. But we feel strongly disposed to condemn it.

The Democratic portion of the Senate is composed of as patriotic men as ever lived in any age. Can we suppose for a moment that Calhoun, or Buchanan, or Wright, or Woodbury, would vote for a Treaty which, as a whole, would be dishonorable to this country?—The idea is preposterous! But they are four out of the twelve Democrats who voted for the Treaty. How, then, can we reconcile their patriotism with their ratification of this Treaty? The only way this can be done is to suppose that they saw in it certain advantages which would accrue to this Commonwealth as a whole, and which, though they were not such as certain portions desired, would be more favorable than could be procured by arbitration under the present managers.

We began this article to correct a mistake;—but we have said much more than we intended. We are sensible that it is of little use to condemn or approve this treaty. We cannot change a single provision in it, although we would if we could. But we are anxious that a correct history of the events shall be given and transmitted to posterity; although it seems to be the interest as well as the desire of some that the true succession of events shall not be given. Sympathy for Mr. Webster is a matter of course, in some quarters.

### GOVERNOR MORTON'S ADDRESS.

We have always had great reverence for the talents and distinguished ability of Governor Morton. If we had formed high opinions of his mind, of his analytical research, and of his thorough acquaintance with political economy, we certainly have had our views still more exalted on reading the excellent address before us. It is a document filled with patriotic sentiments, and exhibits untiring devotion to, and anxious solicitude for, the public good.

Of its particular recommendations we need not speak. That it contains those suggestions which are requisite for Massachusetts we cannot doubt. The subject of taxation is spoken of in a manner which would suit any latitude of any country. We therefore transfer a part of what is said on this subject to our columns. These remarks are so plain and written in language so forcible and striking they commend themselves to the understanding of every man. We have felt ourselves enlightened in their perusal, and we doubt not our readers will say the same.

We congratulate our friends in Massachusetts for having once more a Democratic Governor. We hail with joy the time that called Marcus Morton again to preside over her affairs. We hope it is the harbinger of political benefits, not only to that State, but to the whole Union.

A democratic government is called the cheapest government which can be maintained. It truly is so. The disparity between the expenses of our own, and those of any other government is very great. But we should not deceive ourselves, nor overvalue our political advantages great as they are. The power of taxation is divided among so many different authorities, that with the United States taxes, the State taxes, the county taxes, and the town taxes, without mentioning other occasional taxes, the whole amounts to no inconsiderable burden. Let provident management and practical economy so reign in all these departments, as to prevent any unnecessary burdens in any of them.

The sources of revenue, which have been principally relied on, of late, for the support of our State government, are the tax upon banks and the duty on sales at auction. It should not be forgotten, that all taxes, however imposed, necessarily fall upon the people; some with more and some with less equality and justice. The abundance of the income derived from these sources, and the indirect and imperceptible manner in which it has been drawn from the people, have been the principal causes of that improvident expenditure which has involved the financial affairs of our Commonwealth in embarrassment.

The State, as well as the nation, having derived its revenue from other sources, has left the subject of direct taxation to towns and counties. But if the State should never have occasion to resort to it again, it is not the less our duty to prescribe just and equitable rules of assessment.

From my observation of the operation of the existing laws, I fear that the burdens fall with unequal weight upon different portions of the community. Real estate, which is not the most productive species of property, being incapable of concealment, receives more than its just share of taxation; while personal property, and especially shares in joint stock companies and money at interest, being less tangible and visible, in some measure escape the notice of the assessors. The agricultural interest is not only the first and greatest interest, but the basis of all other branches of industry. It comprehends three times as many persons as any other pursuit, and more than all others united. As a class, they ask less and contribute more than other classes. And while they seek no special privileges or exclusive advantages for themselves, they are peculiarly liable to be preyed upon by them in the hands of others. If any remedy for the unequal burdens imposed upon them can be devised, it will be our duty, as I am sure it will be our pleasure, to adopt it.

Another remark which, doubtless, has occurred to every one conversant with the practical course of direct taxation, is that the assessments are almost invariably heavier upon the poorer than upon the wealthier classes. As the property diminishes, the ability to pay taxes more rapidly diminishes. Yet it is feared that, in practice the proportion of the taxes to the estate, increases as the ability to pay decreases. This tendency should be strenuously counteracted, especially as, in our complicated system, the indirect taxes, depending on consumption, take nearly as much from the poor man as the rich one. And, if we cannot contravert the inequality of indirect taxation, we should be cautious not to increase it by a corresponding inequality in our direct taxes. It is worthy of your consideration, whether some relief may not be found by transferring the assessment on mortgaged estates, to the extent of the amount secured, from the mortgagee to the mortgagor. This would prevent the same property from being twice taxed, or the money at interest from escaping taxation.

Another measure of relief to the poor taxpayer, which I recommend to your favorable regard, is the reduction of the poll tax. This would accomplish two objects, the one affecting essential political rights, and both worthy of earnest consideration.

I hold that every man has a natural right to a voice, and an equal voice, in the government under which he lives—a voice which, like other essential rights, he may forfeit by his own misconduct, but of which he cannot rightfully be deprived without his fault. This right is not derived from the government. It cannot be bought off by the payment of a price, nor can it be withheld by the omission to call for, or a refusal to receive money. Every man, whether he pays taxes or not, owes duties to the government over him; is entitled to protection from it; is bound by its decrees, and has a right to be heard in making them.

The political axiom so much venerated in the days of the revolution, that "representation and taxation go together," was used only to deny the liability to taxation of those who had no voice in imposing the taxes; but never was relied upon to exclude any from the right of suffrage, because they were omitted from the tax-bills. But, in any sense, it is broad enough to support universal suffrage. For every man who consumes dutiable articles, pays a tax. And who is there that does not, every year, in the duties on the goods consumed by him, contribute to the revenue many times the amount of a single poll-tax? I therefore recommend that the poll-tax be reduced to a very small sum, and that it be imposed upon every male between the ages of twenty and seventy years "excepting paupers and persons under guardianship."

In assuming the government of the Commonwealth, we find its pecuniary affairs in an embarrassed condition. It is deeply involved in debt. Its credit is impaired. It has been compelled to sell its own notes under par to meet its obligations. It has become a partner in a joint stock company controlled by individuals. Its stock will take from the earnings of the people more than fifty thousand dollars a year, without any present prospect of a return in dividends. And it has also involved its fiscal liabilities with numerous private corporations, upon whose ability and punctuality may depend the public faith and the honor of the Commonwealth.

The income of the State, derived principally from the sources above referred to, gradually increased for a number of years, till from two hundred thousand, it rose to five hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum. And although it is now somewhat reduced, still it is more than double what it was twenty years ago. But notwithstanding the rapid increase of our revenue, our expenditures increased more rapidly; and the State now owes a debt of one or two hundred thousand dollars, for money which, during the last eight years, it has expended over and above its receipts; and five million dollars of the scrip or notes which it has issued and for which it holds the securities of several rail-road corporations.

These expenditures never would have been incurred by the government, had it been under the necessity of raising the amount expended, directly, and in a perceptible form, from the people. They would have scrutinized the objects and the necessities of the expenditures, and would have condemned many of them as unnecessary and extravagant. They would have required a course of retrenchment and reform, and would have held their agents to a system of economy which would have saved the State from its present indebtedness.

Some fellow in Rhode Island prophesies in the Providence Chronicle: "The world will come to three ends this year, viz.—1. The end of the old charter. 2. The end of Kingism in Rhode Island. 3. The end of Millerism in New England."

Major Davezac's toast at the 8th of January dinner, at Philadelphia:

Envy, Detraction—Two furies ever walking in the footsteps of Genius and Glory—Vile creatures! They may, indeed, strangle to death feeble and sickly plants; but when they lay hold of the oak, captives of the Giant Tree, they are doomed to adorn his limbs with their parasite verdure.







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